

# MAN - APES OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Part II

by Rex Gilroy

## YOWIES

CONTINUING OUR  
FASCINATING LOOK AT THE  
MYSTERIOUS "MAN-APES"  
THAT ARE REPORTED  
AROUND THE GLOBE!

Farmers around Kempsey on the NSW north coast, especially in the foothills of the vast, impenetrable Carrai Range west of town, frequently carry rifles with them while checking stock in remote areas. They recall only too well incidents that have occurred thereabouts over the years, of hairy manbeasts that have strayed from their mountain lairs onto remote farming properties.

The story is still recalled how in 1965, a husband and wife left their remote foothills farm one morning to shop in Kempsey. Their 15 year old daughter was left behind alone to do housework.

She had tidied up about the house and was in the back yard feeding chickens when the family dog, chained up near the house,

began barking furiously, then cringing, crawled inside its kennel.

The girl, suddenly aware that something was behind her, turned, dropped the bag of chicken feed she had been holding, and screamed in terror.

There, standing several metres from and towering over her frail 1.8m height, was an enormous hairy manlike beast a good 2.6m tall, and showing a ferocious look in its eyes, which she later recalled were set deep inside big eyebrows. Large teeth showed from its snarling mouth, and it had an overpowering odour.

The manbeast moved towards her, but the terrified girl rushed up the back door steps, into the house, slamming and bolting the door as she did so.

For some minutes, she later recalled, the beast paced around the house emitting a loud grunting sound, then all went silent.

She was beside herself with terror when her parents returned a couple of hours later, and although she could describe exactly what she had seen to them, and later to police, nobody in authority took any action. No search was organised to attempt to track the mysterious intruder due to the vastness of the nearby wilderness.

The above story is typical of many, often quite believable accounts I receive and follow up. But sightings reports are only as good as the people who claim to have experienced them, and are not physical proof. However, like the best of the plaster casts and photographs of possible Yowie tracks found in the wild, they are good circumstantial evidence upon which to build a case for these creature's existence.

But, if the Yowie exists, why hasn't one been captured by now? Or, why hasn't someone found any bones or a recently deceased carcass?

The answer is simple. The Yowie's habitat covers vast tracts of inaccessible forest - covered mountain country forming the eastern Australian mountain ranges. Country so inaccessible, that any rare or "unknown" species could very easily escape human detection for centuries.

Under these circumstances, capturing a Yowie would be virtually impossible, let alone attempting to photograph one.

As for finding recently deceased remains, or bones; mother nature keeps a clean house. No sooner does an animal die in the wild, than its tissue is quickly eaten up by other animals, decomposition and acidic chemicals in the forest soil. Bones become

# MAN - APES OF AUSTRALIA

scattered, softened by moisture, and cracked by heat; so that soon nothing remains.

Everyone has seen koalas in zoos, but how many have ever found one dead in the wild? The Australian bush is so vast that it is a case of being in the right place at the right time to find any recently deceased animal or its skeleton. The rarer the species, the less chance of finding remains.

So finding physical evidence of the Yowie will be very difficult, considering the habitat in which they live.

On the other hand, fossil remains of a Yowie could yet turn up to finally settle the issue.

It was for the purpose of gathering such evidence that I established the "Australian Unknown Animals Research Centre" (PO Box 473, Kootingal NSW 2352. Ph: 067 787 201), where I welcome any information helpful to my investigations.

Not a week passes without someone mailing or phoning me a reported sighting to follow up, or, occasionally, mystery footprints to inspect in some remote area. I often receive photos of Yowie type tracks, and, sometimes actual plaster casts.

While many cast tracks can easily be dismissed as the work of hoaxers, there are a few identical tracks which possess anatomical features unique to primate - type creatures of which laymen are ignorant, found hundreds of kilometres apart.

This was the case with a single cast at least twice the size of a normal human foot, displaying an opposable big toe, found on a lonely 4-Wheel drive track deep in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, high up in the Jenolan Range, south-west of Katoomba, NSW in 1987.

It compares favourably with a number of giant-sized footprints found by campers in the Numinbah Valley, below the imposing Lamington Plateau on the Qld/NSW border in 1970. These tracks, found embedded in creek mud, measured 45cm in length, by 20cm wide across the toes.

Much later, in March 1990, businessman Craig Turner en route to Sydney, stopped his car by a Numinbah Valley creek. Walking along the bank he found several large footprints embedded up to 4cm deep in mud. Spaced 1.5m apart, the footprints measured 40cm in length by 17cm wide. After obtaining plaster from a nearby town, he made casts of left and right feet, which he later gave me.

Recently an identical right foot cast of the same measurements came to me from the Kiandra district in the Snowy Mountains.

Identical tracks from such widely distributed localities are a persuasive argument for the existence of the Yowie. Like Asian and American "manbeast" footprints, those of the Yowie have flat arches, with abnormally wide heels. The toes are short, and the forefoot less tapered than the human foot.

With a knowledge of primate foot skeletal structure and musculature fake tracks are easily detected. When a fake foot rises, it kicks up a little mound of dirt behind the toes in the footprint. Shoes or a bare foot kick up a mound of dirt back toward the middle of the foot.

From all the foregoing evidence it is obvious that the Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot stand somewhere between man and ape, a feature of most descriptions given by people who have come face-to-face with one of these creatures.

And here are some of the many modern day, startling reports of people who have had the "encounter of a life-time".

The Snowy Mountains has produced many encounters. My research findings show many of these reports occur about June, following the first winter snowfall, when the animal life of the high country migrates into the lower regions. It is at this time that sightings of man-beasts, or footprint discoveries, often on snow-covered ground, are most prevalent.

During June 1970, at Geehi, northwest of Mt Kosciusko, two mountaineers, Ron Bartlett and Frank Sinclair, were camped on the edge of a stand of mountainside trees. Overnight a light snowfall occurred.

At daybreak they were preparing to abandon camp when Frank noticed some large, man-like tracks embedded in nearby snow.

Both had heard tales of the giant hairy "Doolagahls" said to inhabit the mountain country, but had taken little notice of these "bushmen's tales", until they saw these tracks.

The men also detected a strange odour and had the distinct feeling they were not alone. Cautiously they began working their way down the mountainside scrub. Suddenly, ahead they spotted a 2.6m tall, dark hairy man-like figure staring at them. It then vanished into the dense scrub.

In October 1990, Dereck Holmes, while camped on the bank of the source of the Snowy River below Mt Kosciusko, awoke at first light to peer from his tent. As he did so, he caught sight of a 1.6m tall hairy female creature standing nearby amid granite boulders. As he emerged, bewildered at the sight, she bolted away disappearing over a granite outcrop. (It was hereabouts back in 1948 that a party of campers sighted a tall hairy figure about 2.3m tall, moving up a mountainside through snow, at a distance of about 100m.)

Earlier, in January 1990, two young women, Susan Townsend, another girl and their boyfriends, were camped on the shore of Lake Jindabyne one late afternoon. While others went wood collecting in the surrounding forest, Susan was busy getting the campfire started. Detecting a powerful odour and hearing twigs snapping underfoot, she turned and screamed with fear, as a hairy 2.3m tall, muscular giant naked male creature, almost ape-like in appearance, emerged from trees a mere 10m away.

He approached the girl, but hearing the others returning bolted in big strides into the forest.

The boys, hearing Susan's frantic account of what she had just seen, gave chase up mountainside scrub, thinking the intruder was some weird hermit. Large rocks hurled at them and loud snarls convinced the boys to end their pursuit.

Locals to whom they later told their story, said they probably saw one of the "Doolagahls" that old aborigines claim still live up in the mountains!

# MAN - APES OF AUSTRALIA

Further north, in the vast Kanangra-Boyd National Park, in March 1978, two young women and their male companions were camped near Kanangra Creek. While searching the valley floor below Kanangra Walls, they discovered a number of larger-than-man-sized footprints in sand, which they laughed off as someone's joke. But later returning to their camp, they found it ransacked, and the same large tracks visible in surrounding soil.

That night at the camp, still believing the tracks and vandalism the work of a joker, they were startled by "something" moving in nearby bush.

The unseen intruder emitted a series of loud, terrifying screams and howls.

The terrified group remained awake all night, large branches at the ready for protection, and leaving in haste at first light.

The following month another group of several Sydney boys and girls, led by Mr Ted Graham, were camped below the "Walls". Walking along a track about 4pm they spotted 130m ahead of them, a long-armed, man-like creature 3m in height. "It seemed to walk in a stooped manner. It stopped and looked towards us, then moved away into the scrub", Ted told me later.

The group spent an uneasy night at their campfire, returning cautiously the next morning to the spot where they had seen the mystery 'manimal'. Here they found footprints on the track and in nearby forest soil measuring 50cm in length by 20 cm in width, displaying an opposable big toe.

During February 1990 my wife Heather and I carried out an extensive field investigation of the Lamington National Park area.

We interviewed a Numinbah Valley farmer who had experienced eerie happenings. Giant footprints have been found on his property, and weird cries heard at night. In 1969 he was working in a field one morning, when he saw, some distance away, a 3m tall, hairy "man-beast" walking across the field carrying a dead calf.

Grabbing his .303 rifle he fired at the creature, as it effortlessly cleared a wooden paling fence in a single stride, escaping into rainforest.

In another incident a few years earlier, in the Tweed Valley, a stockman, Richard Adams, was mustering a mob of cattle on horseback when the cattle and his horse suddenly took fright.

It was at this moment that, barely 16m ahead of him, an enormous putrid-smelling, muscular hairy man-like creature appeared menacingly brandishing a large tree limb.

The creature, whose face Richard later described as being somewhere between human and ape, stood its ground snarling, as the terrified stockman turned his mount to gallop off down the slope.

It was in the Tweed Valley that, one night in 1935, residents of an isolated farm were startled by the frantic bellowing of their house cow. Their cattle dog tore off into the darkness, barking ferociously. The dog attacked something, but suddenly let out an agonising yelp, then all was quiet.

The farmer and one of his farmhands went out armed with lanterns and guns. They found the corner fences down, the cow

dead with a broken neck, its head almost torn off - and the dog crushed against a tree where it had been thrown. In the distance they could hear something crashing through the bush up the mountainside.

A search next day failed to explain what had killed the animals. However, neighbouring farmers believed it was the work of the "Monster Men of the Lamington Plateau".

Aborigines refuse to enter the valleys hereabouts, for fear of the horrible creatures they believe still lurk there, and which would kill and eat anyone who crossed their path.

Over the years people have disappeared without a trace in these wilds. Eerie cries are often heard at night, terrifying campers.

It was in February 1988, that two campers, John Chambers and Russell Bradden surprised a 2m tall female creature, grubbing for roots on the floor of a Numinbah Valley rainforest. As she arose and escaped into the jungle, the men observed her receding forehead, long arms and long pendulous breasts.

Back in 1965 in the same area, a group of mountain climbers were moving through rainforest at the base of a Lamington cliff face, when they spotted a 3m tall, hairy ape-like creature clambering over boulders, leaving behind an overpowering, rotting, animal like stench.

The often powerful smell of these creatures is a world-wide feature of these "relict hominid" reports, and is not fully understood.

Hominologists don't know everything about these creatures yet, but with every passing year, the evidence for their existence mounts.

It is now 34 years since, as a Liverpool Boys High School (Sydney) student, I first read of the "Hairy Man" in an aboriginal legend book in the school library, and became immediately fascinated with the creatures, recognising similarities between these and the Yeti/Sasquatch.

Since then, it has never ceased to amaze me just how much interest my research has caused. Perhaps the main reason why millions of people world-wide find the Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot mystery so fascinating, is that in modern times, it is one of the last great unsolved mysteries; in the tradition of the Loch Ness Monster, the giant monitor lizards of New Guinea, and the 'neodinosaurus' of the Congo.

People are naturally excited about these, and any other unexplained mysteries, and want to read all the available literature about them. But there can be nothing more exciting than actually participating in the search for such creatures.

I feel privileged to be the founder of Yowie research in Australia, and to have encouraged others to follow my example.

The search for surviving "relict hominids" in remote, hidden regions of the world has been called the "last great search", and it is a fascinating search.

Rex Gilroy can be contacted at the: AUSTRALIAN UNKNOWN ANIMALS RESEARCH CENTRE, PO Box 473, Kootingal, NSW. 2351. Phone: (067) 787 201